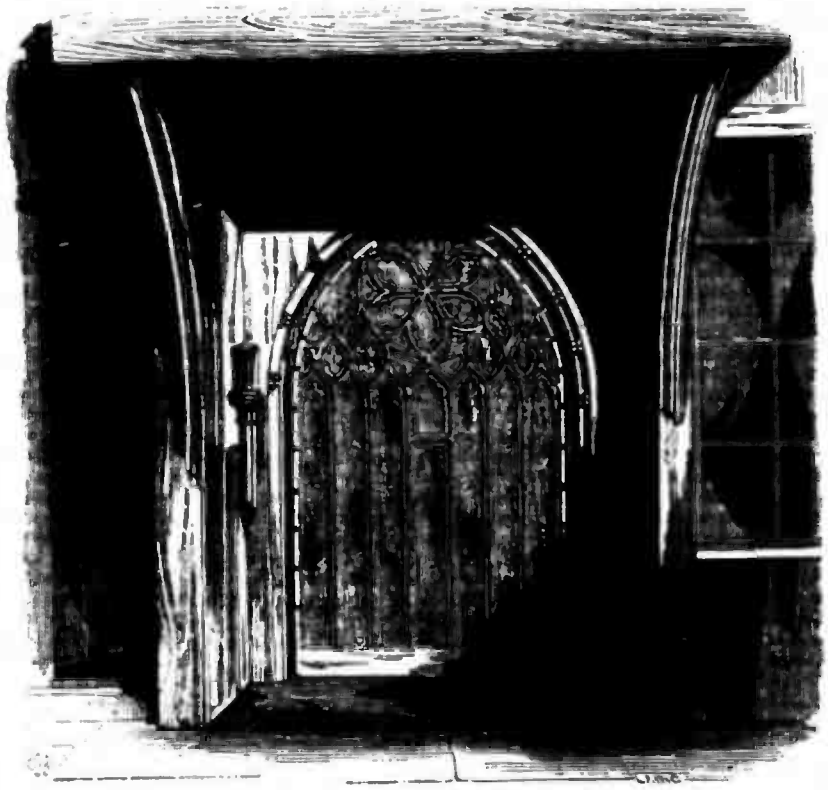

DOOR ON THE WELCH BACK, BRISTOL.

stations. The new line of street would run in curved lines along the hilly ground occupied by various filthy and narrow closes, which it would open up and ventilate without absolutely sweeping them away.

Wexford.—An additional wing is required to be built to Wexford Gaol, and the High Sheriff has announced that the expense thereof, amounting to 1,200*l.*, would not require to be levied on the ratepayers, as that sum would be forthcoming from a fund of 2,000*l.* amassed by the proceeds resulting from the employment of the inmates of the prison.

Miscellaneous.—The foundation-stone of a school-room was laid at St. Fagan's, Cardiff, on 17th ult.——A new lock-up is to be erected at Otley.——The foundation-stone of a new bridge has been laid at Hawick.——A new building for the Arbroath Educational Institution was opened on 15th ult.——It is proposed to erect at Dundee a monument of Aberdeen granite, consisting of pedestal, 12 feet high, and statue 9 feet high, by Mr. Ritchie, sculptor, in memory of Mr. Kinloch, and at a cost of 300 guineas.

COUNTRY ARTIZANS AND ARCHITECTS' ANNOYANCES.

IN a recent number an article appeared,—"Indian Handicrafts:" an English engineer in India describes his experience amongst the native workmen, &c.

In his description of the method of serving a "radj," or bricklayer, one of the "rundees" is represented as carrying a brick in each hand, and the "other with a small wooden trencher, about the size of a bread-basket filled with the massala" (or mortar), which is the method whereby the "radj" is supplied with materials for building in India, and which certainly appears somewhat ridiculous compared with our own method—I say our method, though not universally practised in every part of England; and the perusal of the "rundees'" operations has so vividly brought this fact to my mind, that I am tempted to give you my experience in the north of England.

About six or seven years ago I was sent by an architect of eminence to the north to superintend some repairs to a mansion or castle, and the building a strong-room, &c. On arriving at the scene of action I found some portion of the work in progress. I was singularly struck by the awkwardness of the artizans and labourers employed on the work. The "rundees," or in this instance labourers (agricultural, it is true), were using not exactly a trencher for a hod, but something very near it, in the shape of an earthenware baking-dish, holding not more than two small shovelfuls of mortar, and which one of the "rundees", after filling and nicely rounding up the top so as to form the exact shape of a pie-crust, would very carefully put upon his head, and, in due time, after cautiously ascending the ladder, arrive at his destination with the "massala," or mortar; and a very tedious process, I assure you, it appeared to be. I tried a remonstrance against what appeared so very absurd, so very slow, expensive, and slovenly an operation, but I very soon found that too dangerous an experiment to be repeated, for the Northerns entertain an exceedingly high opinion of themselves, and a very contemptible one indeed for what they are pleased to term the Southerns, by which name all coming from or beyond Birmingham are designated; and the nearer to or from London itself the greater are they held in contempt; the higher the Northern in office the stronger the feeling, and which appears to reach its climax about the grade of a bailiff or steward. Those above that grade appear to be men and gentlemen. Should the poor Southern, by some unlucky chance, give offence to the great "bashaw," he has reason indeed to tremble.

In building a strong room, brick arches had to be formed on iron girders, 6 inches below the floor or ceiling line of the next floor. The girders being fixed on which the arches were to be turned, springing from the bottom flanges, a great and stupid blunder (as it was pleased to be termed) was noticed by the Northerns: instantly a hue and cry was raised that a "London architect had sent down drawings that no one could work from," and other observations were freely passed on the "London architect;" and his Southern representative was equally blamed for keeping the girders "too high, that he ought to have known that no man could work in a space of 6 inches," which was all the available room between the ceiling and the crown of arches, and that the floor could and should not be taken up. Notwithstanding all this vituperation, the drawings were worked to: a man was not necessitated to go between the arch and floor: the floor was not disturbed: yet the arches were turned, and properly turned. The gutter-boards being rotten, and the rafters worm-eaten, the London architect was to blame: if the roofs were not straight or the slates perished, the London architect was to blame, notwithstanding the London architect had no choice but to use Scotch fir for gutter-boards and rafters, unseasoned oak in the roofs, &c., and slates from a chosen quarry.

I mention this, and might adduce much more to show what difficulties architects and their representatives are at times subjected to through prejudice and ignorance.

A SOUTHERN.

SUNDERLAND DOCK: CRAVEN *v.* COMPANY.—This action, brought to recover 50,000*l.* for work done as contractors, was tried at York on Saturday, before Mr. Baron Platt. A claim made by Messrs. Craven had been investigated by Mr. Murray, who awarded them 4,422*l.*, and gave to the company 14,768*l.* for damage alleged to have been done by the plaintiffs. His lordship, after summing up, left two questions with the jury:—1. Was the reference to Mr. Murray by both parties such that his award should be final?—2. Was anything besides the claim of the plaintiff referred to Mr. Murray? The answer to both questions was in the negative. Verdict for the plaintiffs, subject to a reference as to the amount to be paid to the plaintiffs.—*Gateshead Observer.*

For a comprehensive guide on OCR and PDF Compression go to our website